

illustrations are informative, expository and beautiful. While they enhance the aesthetics of the book, they also tremendously increase the scientific value by providing a clear identification tool to support each species description. With more than 800 species described, this book is absolutely packed with information on woody plants. The comprehensive nature of this book makes it invaluable and a necessary text for any classes where dendrology, taxonomy, forestry, botany, resource management or environmental studies are taught. Fralish and Franklin have clearly set a high standard for the future of dendrology texts.—*Amy Trauth Nare, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, U.S.A., amy_trauth@yahoo.com.*

DONALD WATTS. 2000. **Elsevier's Dictionary of Plant Names and their Origin.** (ISBN: 0444503560, hbk.). Elsevier Science B.V., Sara Burgerhartstraat 25, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. \$209.50, 1001 pp, 6 1/2" × 9 1/2".

The dictionary contains about 30,000 vernacular and literary names of plants (primarily of English origin, although American, Australian, New Zealand, and South African names are included), both wild and cultivated, with their botanical name and a brief account of the names' meaning if known.

Knowledge of plant names can give insight into largely forgotten beliefs. Such names were probably the result of some taboo against picking the plant or eating the fruit. Names may also be purely descriptive, and can also serve to explain the meaning of the botanical name. Literary, or "book" names, have also been included in this dictionary, as being a very important part of the whole. That is, names of plants that were written but never used in the vernacular. Names in many instances provide links to the transmission of words through the ages.

The work represents an extensive accumulation of names from a wide diversity of sources. An entry is presented by the vernacular name followed by its botanical (Latin) synonym. This may be expanded by the addition of a vernacular synonym and the source of the primary epithet. Users must reference the source by referring to the bibliography at the front of the dictionary. There is access to a botanical name when a vernacular name is known but not the converse. There is no index of botanical names. There is not a single main entry for vernacular 'binomials'. Each part has its own complete, and largely duplicated, entry. There are no cross-references, thus Aaron's Beard and Beard, Aaron's share the information. All of the vernacular synonyms have their own individual entries rather than being grouped together under a common botanical name.

The work was conceived as part of the author's wider interest in plant and tree lore, and ethno-botanical studies. A labor of love, a monument to the author, but its bulk, poor editing, out-of-date botanical nomenclature, and price only serve to make this less than an adequate choice for most libraries or researchers. Its restricted geographic scope also weighs against a potential purchase. It is not only British in scope, but heavily biased towards southern Britain. Although many of the names listed are current, most belong in the past, and the author makes no attempt to indicate which are current. This work is recommended only for those very large libraries that must have everything available on the subject.—*Gary L. Jennings, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*